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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D.C.

January 19, 1954

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: ~~Annex to Report of Working Group on~~ PSB D-44, Coordinated  
Information Program for the Far East

The instructions to the working group related primarily to the intensification of the information program in the Far East principally through more effective utilization of all available facilities.

The working group identified the major problems for exploration and has the following report to make:

1. Psychological Warfare Coordination - Japan and Korea:

a. USIA had been informed that CINCPAC Psywar might have an excess capacity which could be used to increase radio programming over transmitter JOHN located in Okinawa. In view of the renewal of the contract with the Japanese broadcasting system providing for several hours each evening of both medium and shortwave broadcasting, the staff of Psywar in Tokyo is, in fact, fully occupied. There had been in Tokyo the impression that USIA required additional radio programming resources for transmitter JOHN beyond that which USIA could provide. The working group found no definite requirement for such resources. Steps are being taken by USIA to increase its programming schedule of JOHN beyond the present four hours and forty-five minutes. In terms of available technical personnel to operate the transmitter some five hours can be added.

It is believed that coordination between interested elements in Korea and their counter-parts in Japan can best be handled through periodic trips rather than official representation on the Tokyo Committee.

NSC review(s) completed.

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c. As a result of conversations between Mr. Streibert, Director of USIA, and Colonel K. K. Hansen, Chief of Army Psywar in Tokyo, it was suggested that Psywar Tokyo should be authorized to extend all possible support to USIS in Korea on a mutually satisfactory basis. Appropriate action has been taken by the Department of Defense through Army Psywar.

2. Coordination of Information Operations in Korea:

Consideration of coordination of information operations in Korea was highlighted by a meeting with Mr. Tyler Wood, Economic Coordinator, United Nations Command. It was agreed that USIA would give highest priority to the assignment of qualified personnel to Korea in order that one specific individual could be assigned virtually full time to the economic mission to assure appropriate publicity and exploitation of rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. Furthermore, a new PAO to arrive in Korea on January 23, 1954 has been instructed to establish a formal coordinating committee on which would be represented all American official agencies operating in Korea. One committee would assure that these agencies make a coordinated effort to get the maximum psychological advantage in Korea from U.S. economic assistance in the reconstruction period. Detailed plans for establishing the basis for implementing this instruction are being developed and will be transmitted to the PAO. Up to this time coordination has been carried on through ad hoc and informal arrangements.

3. USIA Reprogramming in the Far East:

Based upon new directives to USIA emanating from the National Security Council and Psychological Strategy Board and its successor, the Operations Coordinating Board, USIA has reviewed its program in all Far Eastern countries. The results of this reprogramming are as follows:

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b. Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia: The expansion in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia provides for additional personnel to bring the present

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c. Burma. In order to counter increasing communist propaganda, particularly in the schools, in the Shan States (Northeast Burma) and the potential political attraction of Shans for the Chinese Communist autonomous state in Southwestern Yunnan, USIA has authorized expansion of its program in that area. Rangoon has been authorized to find quarters at Tsunggyi where a branch will be opened as soon as the Embassy obtains approval from the Foreign Office. One additional American officer and eight local employees will be assigned to operate this branch. Additional funds have been authorized for fiscal year 1954 in the amount of \$15,000.

d. Philippines. In view of the relatively favorable psychological climate now existing in the Philippines, the USIS program in that country will be reduced. There will be less emphasis on provincial activities, local radio, and local motion picture production. In addition, the quantity of press and publications material will be lessened in terms of a year ago. The American personnel complement will be reduced from 17 to 13.

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f. Korea. The high priority already attached to the overall program in Korea will be maintained. However, there would be no increase in shortwave radio transmissions. Limiting factors are the lack of electricity and the extremely small number of receiving sets. USIA, therefore, does not intend to increase its use of this medium.

g. Transmitter JADE. This megawatt medium wave transmitter, located in the Philippines, has been operating on half power since transmissions started. In about two months it will go on full power.

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The following language programs, originating in New York, are transmitted over JADE: Mandarin, Amoy, Cantonese, Thai, English, Vietnamese, and Burmese. Total broadcast time is five hours. In terms of available personnel to operate the transmitter some five hours can be added. A start is being made on local production of radio programming material at JADE. Program material is sent by pouch to JADE from VOA/New York and from each of the overseas posts in Southeast Asia, including Hong Kong and Formosa. These programs could be shipped to transmitter JOHN and other points where they might be effectively used.

h. Overseas Chinese. The Agency has tentative plans for a meeting of its Southeast Asia Public Affairs Officers in Hong Kong March 1, to consider how to put more effort on persuading overseas Chinese to resist the influence of Communist China. It is planned that a representative of USIA (the Assistant Director for the Far East), will lead the discussion. Representatives from the Department of State, the ~~Committee for Free Asia~~, FOA, and other agencies that evidence interest, will be invited to participate.

4. Other Coordinating Relationships:

As a result of Reorganization Plans Nos. 7 and 8, the responsibility for public information overseas relating to technical and economic assistance programs was assigned to USIA. The transfer of operational responsibilities has taken place. A subsidiary document sets forth in more detail the respective responsibilities of FOA and USIA on information activities. This document is in final stages of clearance.

Insert → Where FOA and MAAG Missions exist appropriate liaison and coordinated operations are maintained through joint meetings and personal consultation. The best utilization of combined resources and facilities is worked out at the field level.

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